N9CQgreS UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK -----x 2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 3 17 CR 630 (ER) v. 4 Sentencing 5 KARL SEBASTIAN GREENWOOD 6 Defendant -----x 7 New York, N.Y. 8 September 12, 2023 11:00 a.m. 9 10 Before: 11 HON. EDGARDO RAMOS District Judge 12 13 APPEARANCES 14 DAMIAN WILLIAMS United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York 15 NICHOLAS FOLLY JULIANA NEWCOMB MURRAY 16 KEVIN MEAD 17 Assistant United States Attorney PATTERSON BELKNAP WEBB & TYLER LLP 18 Attorneys for Defendant 19 MUHAMMAD U. FARIDI LAUREN SCHORR POTTER 20 HANNAH M. BRUDNEY 21 WEDDLE LAW PLLC Attorney for Defendant JUSTIN S. WEDDLE 22 23 HOWARD R. LEADER Attorney for Defendant 24 25

(In open court; case called)

DEPUTY CLERK: Counsel, please state your name for the record.

MR. FOLLY: Good morning, your Honor.

Nicholas Folly, Juliana Murray and Kevin Mead for the government.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. FARIDI: Good morning, Judge.

Muhammad Faridi, from Patterson Belknap on behalf of Mr. Greenwood joined here by my colleagues Lauren Schorr Potter, Mr. Justin Weddle, Hannah Brudney. And Howard Leader is also a member of the legal team here.

Judge, if I can also introduce to you Mr. Greenwood's parents, Terry and Lisa Greenwood, who have flown in from Sweden for the sentencing today. He is also joined by other family and some friends.

THE COURT: Good morning to you all.

This matter is on for sentencing. In preparation for today's proceeding, I have reviewed the following:

I have reviewed the presentence report last revised on August 29, 2023 prepared by U.S. Probation Officer Alyssa Lopez, which includes a recommendation. I have also reviewed the sentencing memorandum submitted by Mr. Faridi and his colleagues dated August 29, 2023 on behalf of Mr. Greenwood, which includes a video recording of Mr. Greenwood's parents and

uncle, as well as a number of letters submitted by

Mr. Greenwood's family, friends, business colleagues, a

psychological evaluation prepared by Dr. Jennifer Pearson and

numerous certificates of completion for classes Mr. Greenwood

completed during his incarceration here in the United States.

I have reviewed the government's submission dated February 10,

2023. I also received a letter dated September 11, 2023 from

Ms. Potter, another of Mr. Greenwood's attorneys, and I have

reviewed the government's submission dated September 5, 2023,

and this morning the government's proposed preliminary order of

forfeiture.

Is there anything else that I should have received or reviewed in connection with the sentencing, Mr. Folly?

MR. FOLLY: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Faridi?

MR. FARIDI: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Folks, you don't have to keep standing. You can remain seated for the balance of this proceeding.

Mr. Faridi, have you received a presentence report and discussed it with your client?

MR. FARIDI: Yes, we have, Judge. If it's okay with your Honor, Mr. Weddle and Ms. Potter will do most of the speaking on behalf of Mr. Greenwood today.

THE COURT: Whom should I address therefor?

MR. WEDDLE: On the PSR, that would be me.

THE COURT: Very well.

MR. WEDDLE: We've received the PSR and reviewed it with Mr. Greenwood. At this point there are no matters that need to be resolved with respect to the PSR. We've managed to resolve them all essentially through discussions with government counsel and all of those revisions are reflected in the final draft of the PSR.

THE COURT: Very well.

MR. WEDDLE: I should note, your Honor, just to make everything crystal clear, that we are, of course, preserving for appeal our Azeem arguments. That's reflected in the PSR, and our submission, but also in saying there are no contested issues, I want to have that footnote on it that we are preserving for appeal the Azeem argument and any ramifications that could flow from that argument if it were adopted by a Court.

THE COURT: Right. Absolutely.

Mr. Greenwood, have you received the presentence report and discussed it with your attorney?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well. Although I am not required to impose a sentence within the sentencing range, I am required to consider the guidelines, and in order to do so, I need to do the calculation.

Mr. Greenwood entered a plea of guilty to three

counts: One count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of wire fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

I have reviewed the presentence report and the calculations set forth therein at paragraphs 75 to 90, and I agree that the total offense level is 43 based on the following calculation: The base offense level is 7 to which 30 levels are added because the offense involved the loss of more than \$550 million. Six levels are added because the scheme resulted in financial hardship to 25 or more victims. Two levels are added because a substantial part of the offense took place outside of the United States. Two levels are added because Mr. Greenwood was convicted under, among other statutes, 18 U.S.C., Section 1956. Two levels are added because the offense involved sophisticated means. Four levels are added because of Mr. Greenwood's leadership role in the offense and that totals 53. However, the total offense level is deemed to be 43 because there is no higher level under the guidelines.

In addition, because Mr. Greenwood has zero criminal history points, he is in Criminal History Category I.

And so, in summary, with a total offense level of 43 and a Criminal History Category of I, the applicable guidelines range is life. However, due to the statutory maximum, sentences under three counts of conviction, the effective guidelines range is 720 months, or 60 years.

And with that, Mr. Folly, does the government wish to be heard?

MR. FOLLY: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: You could stand or not, whatever makes you comfortable.

MR. FOLLY: Thank you, your Honor. I'll stand.

This sentencing today is the culmination of an investigation that started in 2016 into what may be the single largest global fraud scheme ever perpetrated. The effort that went into this investigation and prosecution was extraordinary. It required the assistance of the FBI, the IRS criminal investigation, a SAUSA from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, as well as AUSAs and an investigator from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District. The investigation spanned the globe and truly relied not just on the assistance of those I mentioned, but also on tremendous effort and assistance from the international law enforcement community.

At the heart of that investigation was a cryptocurrency scheme that this man Karl Sebastian Greenwood, along with Ruja Ignatova conceived of and orchestrated. They conceived of it from day one as a fraud scheme. This scheme inflicted serious economic harm on millions of victims around the world. Most of those victims will recover next to nothing, next to nothing of the more than \$4 billion that they invested into this scheme. That money went to line the pockets of

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Greenwood, of other similar co-conspirators, and they used that money to fund what cannot be described as anything other than an over-the-top extravagant lifestyle. Today it's time for Greenwood to be held fully responsible for his extraordinary crimes and for the Court to impose just punishment for what he did. As set forth in our sentencing memorandum, nothing short of 30 years' imprisonment is appropriate in this case.

Your Honor, I'd like to start by addressing the nature and seriousness of the offense, as well as the need for just punishment before turning to some of the other 3553(a) factors. At the outset, it cannot be overstated just how serious the defendant's crimes were. This scheme that he conceived of and orchestrated was truly a scheme without any precedent. To the government's knowledge, this was the largest international fraud scheme that has ever been investigated and prosecuted; over three and a half million victims, over \$4 billion in loss straight from the pockets of each of those victims. And what they were left with was a completely worthless cryptocurrency that Greenwood and others had somehow managed to convince them was going to be the next Bitcoin. Unlike the victims of some of the other largest schemes that have been prosecuted, such as Madoff, here there is no realistic hope that these victims are going to get that money back. In Madoff, they received nearly 90 percent of the money that they invested, and here they are likely to receive next to nothing which I will address in a few

moments.

Not only did Greenwood come up with this scheme along with Ignatova, but he was also the company's global master distributor. He was the public face of the company. He was on top of the MLM pyramid. He was the lead recruiter. His primary job was to tour the globe to stare into the eyes of thousands and thousands of his victims and to convince them that this was real. He gave them hope. He gave them excitement, and he convinced them that this was going to be the next Bitcoin. He was masterful at that job. This scheme was remarkably successful. It caught on like wildfire. And as your Honor saw in some of the letters from the victims, it was Greenwood at the head of that MLM marketing network that made it tick, that made it be so successful.

There are many features of this scheme, your Honor, that go to the severity of the offense conduct. The first is how highly calculated and sophisticated the scheme was. It required extensive preparation. The defendant worked alongside Ruja tirelessly to come up with the features of this scheme, to come up with a cryptocurrency that resembled sufficiently a real cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin so that investors would actually believe it's real and invest. They had to be fluent with the key concepts of legitimate cryptocurrencies such as blockchain, such as mining pools, all so that they could convince those investors that this was a real coin.

Greenwood's soul motivation to participate in this scheme was to fund his opulent lifestyle that he could never otherwise afford. He flew around in a private OneCoin private jet. He stayed at luxury 5-star resorts. He rented luxury cars. He bought properties all over the world, including an oceanfront property in Thailand. He purchased designer clothes, footwear, watches, a Sunseeker yacht, every penny of which was derived straight from the pockets of those investors more than --

THE COURT: Mr. Folly, do you know when it was exactly or approximately that he and Ms. Ignatova began this, and what was he doing at the time, if you know?

MR. FOLLY: Yes, your Honor. It's an important question. And it was in 2014, and as set forth in the PSR, that same year Greenwood and Ignatova, before they started working on the concept of OneCoin, were already involved in another fraudulent scheme involving BigCoin, which was another cryptocurrency they were both working on. Greenwood described it as a so-called coin — he described BigCoin as a currency based in Hong Kong that was extremely popular and successful reaching a market capitalization of over USD one hundred million.

THE COURT: To be clear, Mr. Folly, you're saying BigCoin, B-I-G, not bitcoin, B-I-T.

MR. FOLLY: BigCoin, B-I-G Coin. Your Honor, both the

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defendant and Ignatova were working on that project together, and that inspired them to pivot, launch their own, more refined and far more dangerous cryptocurrency, ultimately OneCoin. And one of the key features in that pivot that they implemented was this MLM structure which really enabled this coin to take off and supercharge the global sales of that coin.

Your Honor, another feature that demonstrates just how serious this conduct was, Greenwood deliberately targeted members of the global community, those that they identified as being the "unbanked," those that did not have traditional access to banking in the traditional financial sector. targeted that global community and sold them on the concept that they were going to connect them to the banking system; that they had something that was actually even better than traditional banking. He gave them hope. He inspired them to purchase. He leveraged the fact that they were not sophisticated investors so that he could get them and bring them into this scheme. And he deliberately exploited that lack of financial sophistication. He targeted that group so that he could convince them that this was a legitimate cryptocurrency just like Bitcoin. And making it worse, in private he actually made fun of those investors. He called them idiots. He said that this project wouldn't work if these individuals were intelligent.

Your Honor, he displayed a remarkable callous

disregard for the very victims that he got on stage and recruited to join this cryptocurrency. To make matters worse, your Honor, those victims, unlike certain schemes, those victims could least afford to lose that money they invested in this scheme. You saw that in the victim impact statements. Money was drawn from college funds. There was an individual who had to continue working into their mid-seventies. They couldn't afford to retire. There are those to this day that are unable to recover because of the harm that was inflicted by Greenwood through this scheme. These were not wealthy investors. These were everyday people who did not have significant financial sophistication who often even weren't connected to the banking system.

And, your Honor, what makes it that much worse is that this money has been spent. It was laundered through a global sophisticated network of money launderers, billions and billions of dollars. And unlike Madoff, these investors are not going to get the money back. The government is not able to recover that money. It has been dissipated, and they are going to get, at best, pennies on the dollar for what they invested, more than \$4 billion completely erased from those investors' pockets.

Your Honor, general deterrence is also very important here. The press has been following this case closely. There are several books. There's a podcast. There are several TV

productions. Some of that is cited in our submission. And the sentence that is imposed here today by the Court will resonate significantly.

Furthermore, this is the exact type of scheme, a highly calculated scheme that requires extensive planning and in which general deterrence is most likely to have a strong effect. It's also a scheme that's extremely difficult to detect. Your Honor, I addressed at the outset the extensive coordination that was required with the global law enforcement community. Your Honor saw throughout the trial against Mark Scott just how elaborate this maze of international money laundering was. To trace where that money went through this maze of accounts all over the world took years. Your Honor, to bring these cases requires enormous, enormous efforts, and for that reason it is that much more important when they are successfully detected and prosecuted to impose a significant sentence.

The last point is that schemes like this also inflict exceptional harm on everyday victims. These are not investors that can afford to lose this money, and it inflicts harm that is irreversible and will impact their lives permanently.

Your Honor, in the defendant's sentencing submission, there is a great focus on his personal history and characteristics. Those factors cut both ways in this case.

The defendant here did not commit this crime out of necessity.

He was afforded every possible privilege. He had a stable home. He had good parents. He had a good education. He had an excellent job at KPMG. He had it made. He had opportunities that many people only can dream of. And yet, that was simply not enough for him. He was greedy. He turned to this abhorrent scheme out of what can only be described as greed. He wanted a lavish lifestyle that he could not get through legitimate means. All of that personal history here counsels in favor of a sentence of at least 30 years.

What's more, he also cites in his sentencing submissions reputation for generosity and kindness, claiming that his impulse to help others runs deep. But his actions over a period of years in this case tell a very different story. He displayed callous disregard for the millions of lives that he wrecked. He ripped investors off of billions of dollars and mocked those same people in private after claiming publicly that he was giving them hope; that he was giving them a path to financial independence; that he was starting a financial revolution. All of that must be fully accounted for in fashioning an appropriate sentence here.

Your Honor, we do recognize that the mitigation cited in the defendant's sentencing submission should be taken fully into consideration by your Honor at this sentencing, but it only goes so far, and absent that mitigation, a guideline sentence, such as the sentence recommended by probation, is

what would be appropriate here.

Your Honor, briefly just to address the argument concerning unwarranted sentencing disparities. The first point here, your Honor, is that there is few, if any, precedents for this case. We explained in detail the staggering proportions of what the defendant did through this fraud scheme, but some of the sentences do provide instruction here. One was the sentence of Bernard Ebbers. We cited that in our submission. There are several facets of that scheme and of the factors that were considered at sentencing that are instructive here.

The first is, unlike this scheme, that scheme involved the operation of a legitimate company that was concealing its true operating performance as opposed to what Greenwood did here, which was create from day one and mass distribute a cryptocurrency that was through and through fraudulent, had zero value whatsoever at any point in time. There was also substantial mitigation cited in that case; in particular, defendant's poor health to the point where the court actually concluded the sentence that the court imposed of 25 years was effectively a life sentence. Notably, in addition to that, here the defendants are not going to be paid anything in restitution.

Madoff, your Honor, is also instructive here. It is the rare case, maybe no other case where you can actually compare the conduct to that of what was at issue in Madoff.

There are aspects of Greenwood's scheme, your Honor, that were worse. Madoff's scheme involved thousands, thousands — not millions — of victims. The scope and breadth of the harm of Greenwood's scheme actually surpassed that of Madoff. In terms of dollars, as we set forth in our submission, there is no question Madoff involved more loss to each investor, but at the same time those investors have nearly been made whole. They've recovered nearly 90 percent of the money that they lost, and the investors here are not going to recover anything.

Your Honor, at bottom, this case involved a harm of unprecedented dimensions. The defendant was the leader of this scheme right alongside Ruja Ignatova. As you saw in our submission, she herself said without this defendant's help and assistance and the pivotal role that he played in marketing this cryptocurrency, this scheme would not have worked. If Ruja was one A, this defendant is one B. He was right there next to her from the start all the way through the finish, even after she disappeared. Your Honor, for all of those reasons, a sentence of at least 30 years is necessary and warranted in this case.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Folly.

Ms. Potter.

MS. POTTER: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: You can use the podium if you wish.

MS. POTTER: You know what, I may, your Honor. It's a

bit crowded.

Your Honor, we recognize that this is an extremely serious crime. Mr. Greenwood has pled guilty. He has taken responsibility for his actions. He is deeply remorseful for the harm that he has caused, and I expect you will be hearing directly from Mr. Greenwood today.

On top of that, your Honor, Mr. Greenwood waived a valid speedy trial violation in this case, which was more than eight months long by our calculation and would have resulted in a dismissal, all while he was serving time at the MCC and MDC and in Thailand before that. And Mr. Greenwood has suffered for his actions. He has paid for his crimes. The punishment he has already served is extremely serious. It's in fact extraordinary when you think about it. Mr. Greenwood for the last five years has been incarcerated in truly horrendous conditions, and his experiences detained have been traumatic. They have had lasting impacts on his health, and there are effects that are going to be exacerbated with each additional day he is in prison. He has done this outside of his home country, outside of the presence of family.

Your Honor, for those collective reasons, given these unique circumstances here, when you consider the 3553(a) factors and Mr. Greenwood's humanity and what is just in this case, we do believe that a sentence of time served is sufficient to meet the goals of sentencing.

Now, on that point, your Honor, on the time served to date, I want to just highlight what we said in our submission. Consistent with how the courts have treated time recently served at the MCC and MDC, particularly during Covid,

Mr. Greenwood's time of five years should be considered more like the equivalent of double that time, of actually ten years. Courts have been viewing this time in the MCC and MDC as significantly more punitive than it should be and being the equivalent of far more than the actual days that have been spent there.

And that, your Honor, is even before you are to take into consideration the time that he served in Thailand, which is difficult to even ascribe a number of years to.

Before I spend much time on the 3553(a) factors, let me just pause for a moment here on the guidelines range. As your Honor has noted before, the tables concerning financial frauds are inflated, and they are levels wholly out of step with what is rational in cases like this. We provide for the Court several examples of courts in this district that are acknowledging just that. It's all the more absurd when you think about how to compare that to cases involving terrorism or acts of violence that don't come close to where the numbers come in a case like this. And, your Honor, the government's requested sentence ultimately does seem to really be turning on the guidelines calculation here. Of course we have to start

with the guidelines, as your Honor has already acknowledged, but the government seems to be using that really as their sole argument. We believe, however, that the focus should be on the 3553(a) factors and the truly unique circumstances of the last five years of Mr. Greenwood's life.

As I said, your Honor, the conditions under which Karl has been incarcerated in three different facilities over the last five years have been nothing short of traumatic. These years have stripped Karl of his humanity. They have deeply affected his health. They have stripped him of connections to his family. And they have caused lasting effects on him that will forever remain. Karl's years detained thus far are not what this court or, frankly, this country envisions when we consider whether a term of imprisonment is appropriate as a form of punishment. Of course prison is punishment, but it has taken far more from Karl than it is intended to do.

Let me just talk for a moment about some of those conditions. Of course your Honor has seen the detail in our submissions. Karl was first detained in Thailand in one of the most notorious prisons in the world recognized by organizations like the UN as engaging in rampant human rights violations and fostering particularly cruel conditions. His conditions were what no human should experience: Stripped naked. Shaved down. Chained to other inmates for 24 hours. Forced to sleep on the floor full of cock roaches and rodents. Food filled with

maggots. Forced to sit outside in the heat for hours on end, housed with nearly 100 inmates living in constant fear. And on top of that, your Honor, I want to emphasize the particular circumstances that are discussed in our brief on pages 11, 12 and 37 that have resulted in lasting health effects and health consequences that Mr. Greenwood is forced to confront daily, particularly when he is detained.

Now to be clear, your Honor, this isn't a situation like, for example, in the Ebbers case where there were mitigating circumstances before, health circumstances, I should say, before the defendant's incarceration. Rather, here they have been caused by his time over the last five years. And I will note, Judge, that courts wholly look at defendant's time in foreign facilities such as this when thinking about and actually reducing sentences with factors very similar to those that Mr. Greenwood experienced in Thailand.

When he comes to the United States to face his charges, he is then detained at the MCC. I don't need to get into all of the horrors of the MCC in the years just prior to closing. I know that that has been discussed in many cases including with your Honor, but this court has consistently reduced defendants' sentences solely because of those conditions. And we cite to a litany of cases where that happened of recent.

Mr. Greenwood was in MCC for the duration of all of

these incidents that occurred over the last several years. He was there in 2019 for the death of Epstein, which resulted in a significant period of lockdown. He was there in February 2020 when an officer smuggled a loaded firearm into the facility, resulting again in lockdown and disarray. And then immediately thereafter Covid struck. And as this Court and other judges in this district have discussed the conditions in the MCC during Covid were just deplorable. And we share specific details on that on page 15 of our submission.

Your Honor, Mr. Greenwood spent three years at the MCC, including 18 consecutive months on lockdown when the pandemic began. That is 18 consecutive months being in his cell for 23 hours a day. And, your Honor, unlike many defendants in this district charged with offenses similar to Karl's, including his co-defendants, he was not released on bail when the pandemic struck. Instead, he was left to suffer inside of the facility for the next 18 months.

When MCC closed, Karl was sent to the MDC which faced many of the same problems. Struggling to accommodate the increase in inmates with a reduction in staffing, he spent a tremendous amount of time on lockdown. In total, Karl estimates that he has been on lockdown for at least two and a half years of the last five years of his detention. And, again, like MCC, with MDC, courts have reduced sentences solely because of those conditions alone. But here, your Honor, there

is a pile-on exacerbating effect of one institution after another after another that cannot be overstated, particularly given Karl's circumstances. I cite to Exhibit 1 in that regard. And any continued incarceration will only worsen those effects. Courts, as I said at the outset, have considered time spent in these conditions as days, if not years, far beyond those that are actually spent and have substantially reduced sentences as a result. And here you have the compounded effect of all three institutions. And courts have been doing this, it seems, because while prison is supposed to be punishment, it is not supposed to be trauma of that nature or close. And I quote a Judge Engelmayer case with that point. And as Judge Oetken has said, it is not supposed to be twice as punitive as it should be.

And your Honor recognized as much in your sentence of Mr. Armenta in this case, noting that it was the worst point in that sad institution's history when Mr. Armenta was there. And let me just make an important comparison there, your Honor. Mr. Armenta spent eight months in the MCC and only 12 days during the pandemic before he was released on bail.

Mr. Greenwood spent three years at the MCC and 18 months during

Your Honor, we believe the purposes of sentencing have been accomplished by this extraordinarily difficult and harsh five years of imprisonment that Mr. Greenwood has endured.

the pandemic then to be followed by the MDC.

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These were not ordinary five years of detention. They will have lasting effects.

Let me spend a moment now also to just speak about the man who is before you. Mr. Greenwood is part of a stable, loving, devoted community of family and friends that have remained supportive of him throughout these last five years. He is a devoted son and a loving father of four. We have submitted, as your Honor noted, 33 letters of support on his behalf, as well as a video, and I believe they do provide a clear picture of who he is to his loved ones. Mr. Greenwood is a hard-working, kind and he is a generous man to family and strangers alike, including before and after his involvement with OneCoin. Karl's children have continued to grow up without a father, without a means to even see him or speak to him as he's been incarcerated here in the United States, and particularly during the pandemic. They have been deeply affected by Karl's conduct and his crime, as we've explained in our brief. Karl's parents are constants in his life. As my colleague noted, they are here in the courtroom here today. They traveled from Sweden to be here today. They've described in detail their experience of seeing Karl at the MCC, now four years ago, and the suffering they have endured over these Their devotion to their son has not faltered, and together with Karl's uncle, who is in the video as your Honor notes. Karl will have the support he needs to restart his life

in Sweden.

Now, Karl is responsible for what he has put his family through these last five years, not being present in their lives when he needs them. He lives with that. But, your Honor, while prison isolates a person from his family, it is uniquely different when you are thousands of miles away with limited communication, particularly during a global pandemic.

I would also note, your Honor, that Karl has found time while incarcerated at the MDC to improve himself and to help other inmates. He's taken courses. He's provided assistance and teaching to them. Not many people would be able to sort of find that way or find that opportunity, but he did.

Your Honor, let me also note, you asked the -- just give me one moment, your Honor. I'm going to strike that, your Honor.

I would like to now turn to the other 3553(a) factors and the unique circumstances of this case. We do not believe that additional time here would further the goals of sentencing. Your Honor, the government is asking for 25 additional years for Karl. That is five times what he has done so far. And I would note as we describe in our brief, given his status as a non-U.S. citizen, he is not even eligible for good time credit, so they are really asking for five times more than what he has served already. That seems unjust under the circumstances of this case and Mr. Greenwood's acceptance of

responsibility.

On deterrence, your Honor, Karl's incarceration to date and the circumstances he has faced provide all of the general and specific deterrence needed for this crime. No one wants to experience what he has experienced in these five years. Your Honor, the government noted today and in its brief about the intent resources that were required to investigate this crime. It was a global operation. Karl has accepted responsibility for it. But, your Honor, the resources and the extensive investigation that a case undertakes is not a 3553(a) factor or one that Karl should be punished for. On the comparable cases the government has chosen, we would submit that each is distinguishable on the facts, on the mitigating circumstances, and on acceptance of responsibility.

First on Ebbers, just to make a few points, your

Honor, we do not dispute the very serious nature of the crime

here, and Karl has taken full responsibility. But I would

submit, Judge, that that was a very different set of facts, a

very different type of case, involving implications for U.S.

and global markets alike. Mr. Ebbers did not plead guilty,

which I think is a critical point for the Court to consider.

He went to trial. Karl pled guilty and has accepted

responsibility. And, your Honor, Mr. Ebbers was released after

13 years in prison on compassionate release. In releasing

Mr. Ebbers early, Judge Caproni's principal consideration was

his declining health and his age. While we're not in the same procedural posture here, of course, I don't think it can be overstated that Karl's health has materially declined because of his time in prison, and it will continue to decline as we describe in our submission and in Exhibit 1 if he remains incarcerated. I would also note that when Judge Caproni released Mr. Ebbers at 13 years, she made very clear that that was not a slap on the wrist, and it seems like no one who would be considering committing a crime like that would view this as a lenient sentence.

It seems here, your Honor, that in this case and in others the primary distinction the government tries to make in arguing that Karl should get more time is loss amount, but that ignores the many other factors that distinguish this case and cuts against all of the various cases that --

THE COURT: The government also emphasizes the number of victims and the relative wherewithal of those victims vis-a-vis, for example, Madoff's victims.

MS. POTTER: Your Honor, we recognize the number of victims here, of course. As your Honor understands, it was a scheme in which there was sort of participants upon participants, and we are not disputing the victims here or the hardship that they faced. That said, I do think that there are many differences between these cases, their impact, and the mitigating factors that are still highly relevant to

distinguishing these cases, particularly on sentencing grounds.

On the Mazer case, which is another case that the government relies on in its brief, similarly it was a different type of scheme. There the defendants were agents of the City of New York and committed a fraud against an institution, against the city economy. And, notably, as the government says in its brief, and again, like Ebbers, the defendants in that case did not plead. Here Karl has pled and accepted full responsibility. And on top of that, we are not aware of any mitigating factors of the scale that exist here.

Let me just also make a brief note as to other defendants in this case, your Honor. With regard to Mr. Armenta, as I already mentioned, I would really highlight again the difference in the terms of presentence detention that him and Karl have served. Again, as I said, he spent 12 days in the MCC before being released on bail. Karl spent 18 months. I would also note that Mr. Armenta's conduct, while different than Karl's, was extensive. He was held responsible, as I understand, for \$300 million in loss. On the loss table, that is just one level below, two points below where Mr. Greenwood is. He also was involved -- and I believe the government described this at his sentencing -- that his involvement in extortion, threats of violence and actual violence changed the dynamics of that case from just a white-collar fraud case to one that does involve at least some

level of violence. Nothing of the sort exists here. Let me just also note Mr. Scott, who of course went to trial before your Honor I believe in 2019, has served, I believe, seven days in jail so far. Again, Karl has spent five years.

Your Honor, specific deterrence we submit is fully taken care of for all of the reasons that I have already discussed. Karl has suffered and lost everything for the time that he has served for these last five years. He has spent well over 50 percent of his detention, so two and a half years, in lockdown. He has done this thousands of miles away from parents, family, loved ones, all of whom continue to speak support him but cannot visit him and have limited ability to connect with him. On top of that, your Honor, Karl and his family have suffered extreme public shame and turmoil as a result of this conduct. More years in jail at this point, your Honor, is only punitive given all of these circumstances, nothing more.

Lastly, but significantly, I do want to remind the Court of what Karl faces as a non-citizen if he stays imprisoned. As a non-citizen, he is not eligible to receive good time credit towards early release. He gets no or limited access to programs that he would be eligible for if he were a U.S. citizen, and, as we put in our brief, that he would take advantage of. He will likely end up in a for-profit prison which is known for poor healthcare, overcrowding, higher rates

of solitary confinement and the like.

And, lastly, your Honor, if Karl remains detained, whenever he is released, he will return to detention in the form of immigration custody. There is no question that immigration custody will be unnecessarily prolonged in continuing poor conditions for an unknown period of time.

Judge McMahon addressed this directly in the Connelly case which we cite and flatly says that it is simply just not right.

Your Honor, for these reasons and accounting for the fact that Mr. Greenwood's five years in prison to date should be treated as at least double that, the defense submits that a sentence of time served or a sentence of home incarceration in Sweden is sufficient to meet the needs of sentencing here.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Potter.

MR. FOLLY: Your Honor, we would ask for the opportunity to respond either before or after the defendant's--

THE COURT: Why don't you do that now.

MR. FOLLY: Thank you, your Honor.

With respect to the argument that was raised by defense counsel about the guidelines, it was suggested that the government's sole argument is based on the guidelines. Just to be clear, the government's argument is based on all of the 3553(a) factors. The guideline sentence here is 60 years. The government is submitting to the Court that a sentence of approximately half of that, 30 years is what is sufficient in

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this case. So the suggestion that the government is relying solely on the guidelines is completely inconsistent with all of the arguments we have made today and in our sentencing submission.

But, moreover, the guidelines calculation here actually completely underestimates the full scope of the defendant's conduct. The loss inflicted by the defendant exceeds eight times what is captured in the highest range of the loss table of the quidelines. And not only that, but there are few cases where the quidelines are more helpful in understanding the full magnitude of the defendant's conduct and role in a scheme. He was a leader here. He was a co-founder. He came up with this scheme. The more than \$4 billion in loss was actual loss. This is not hypothetical. This is not intended. This is real money that came out of the pockets of those investors. And even if the Court were just to look at the \$300 million that went into this defendant's pockets, it wouldn't change the guidelines analysis at all, just the money he earned himself off of the scheme. So these guidelines, your Honor, do not meet the narrow parameters that the defense was arguing in certain cases where there might be an overstatement of the offense conduct. Here they actually understate it. And moreover, we are not even seeking the guideline sentence of 60 years in this case.

Your Honor, with respect to the other defendants in

this case, Gilbert Armenta, as characterized in the government's sentencing submission, provided cooperation efforts that were extraordinary. Gilbert Armenta was hired by this defendant and Ruja to do their bidding, to do their international money laundering. So any comparison of the sentence that was imposed on Armenta versus the sentence that should be and fairly imposed on this defendant, it's apples and oranges. Their conduct in this case was completely different. The defendant's was far more egregious, and of course there are no comparable extraordinary cooperation efforts, which were a significant factor at the sentencing of Armenta.

Your Honor, there was also a discussion about comparable cases in the citation to the Mazer case. Just a note on that. The three defendants there were sentenced to 20 years each. Those defendants perpetrated a scheme that inflicted \$100 million in loss on the City of New York. These were not individual victims where the money was coming out of the pockets of everyday people who could not afford to lose that money, and even there a sentence of 20 years for each of those participants pass imposed. And the point about a plea versus going to trial, your Honor, the plea is captured in the guidelines, and there is no further consideration that should be given to that at this stage of sentencing.

Your Honor, the only other issue I would just like to raise, at some point we would just ask if the Court inquires if

there are any victims present who would like to speak. The government has not been informed that there are, but we would like to make sure that there are not.

THE COURT: Let me do that now.

Is there anyone here who considers themself a victim of the scheme charged in this indictment? I see no hands.

Ms. Potter, I will give you an opportunity to respond briefly if you wish.

MR. WEDDLE: Your Honor, could I just say one --

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. WEDDLE: Just very briefly to respond the prosecutor's comment about Mr. Armenta's efforts at cooperation, which were extensive as reported in the public record, I do think that there is something — there are facts in the PSR that speak to that issue, and I think the circumstances are largely under the control of the prosecution; that is, the prosecution offered to Mr. Armenta the opportunity to do a great number of things. And as a result of that, he got the opportunity to make the sentencing arguments that he made. And so I think that by accepting responsibility for the crime and by the other conduct that Mr. Greenwood has engaged in as described in the sentencing memo and the PSR, particularly portions that are under seal, he should get credit for that sincere and extraordinary acceptance of responsibility, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Weddle.

Mr. Greenwood, you have an absolute right to address the Court before I impose sentence. Is there anything that you wanted me to know?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

Judge Ramos, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

And thank you to everyone here to support me today. Your

Honor, there is no elegant way to say this: What I did was

wrong. The deep regret I feel from the choices that I made I

can't take back. Lie side by side with the terror I

experienced in Thailand. The day I blacked out, I didn't

believe I was going to come out alive. In short, my body

simply shut down. Confused and afraid, I suddenly reverted to

my childhood when I was a young boy who cherished the local

church. I began to pray. I was desperate. I was scared. The

prison felt insane, and I felt insane too. That first day in

that Thai prison I begged for repentance and deliverance.

Though as the day went on, my prayer changed. Please God, let

me die. But I didn't die. What came next was worse.

After that experience, being extradited to the United States felt like the right choice. Yet, after traveling over 5,700 miles across the world to a place I thought I would feel safe, I entered MCC. I quickly realized I was also very far away from anything familiar or anyone that I loved, including my four children who are today ages 15, 14, 7 and 6.

Incarceration is hard on every family and is like an unruly beast that tears everyone apart. Still, being incarcerated in a foreign country with no support and no way to support those you love feels damaging beyond repair. When I stand here and say this out loud in your courtroom today, your Honor, I feel shattered.

Yet, beyond my own pain lies something more painful, the pain that I have caused others, especially the victims of my actions. I cannot take it back. All I can do is ask for forgiveness. I am deeply sorry for the harm that I have caused anyone based on my actions. I am sorry that I led them to believe that OneCoin would become the next Bitcoin. It shames me when I think about all those people whose dreams of cryptocurrency riches I exploited. I am embarrassed to think of how I spent their hard-earned money on extravagant purchases for myself and to fund an overly lavish lifestyle. I will forever carry my past choices with me. And as I lay in my prison bed locked in the cell for most of the time, I can't escape how I've destroyed my life and caused irreparable harm to many others.

I recognize that this did not have to be my life. My parents raised me in a loving household and taught me right from wrong. I have no excuses for my actions, your Honor. I am deeply ashamed of the pain that I have caused my family. For the past five years, I have been able to support my parents

and my uncle through health challenges when they needed me the most.

(Counsel consults)

Oh. I have been unable. Sorry, your Honor. I have been unable to support my parents and my uncle through the health challenges when they needed me the most.

And I have missed out on countless milestones as my children have grown older and have needed more of my support. My time in prison has allowed me to see clearly the simple things that matter the most and I have lost and I will never regain again. Now all I yearn for today is a world where I can touch the grass again, feel the sunshine on my face, celebrate my children's birthdays, support them with their education, and be able to touch my young boy's hair and tuck him in bed at night. And a chance to see my parents every day and give them a hug.

That is what I wanted to share with you today, your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Greenwood.

In deciding what sentence to impose, in addition to the Sentencing Guidelines, I have considered all the factors set forth at Section 3553(a) of Title 18 United States Code, including as most relevant to Mr. Greenwood, the nature and circumstances of the offense and his history and characteristics. I have considered the need for the sentence

imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, to provide just punishment, to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, to protect the public from further crimes, and to provide Mr. Greenwood with needed medical care in the most effective manner.

I have considered the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among similarly situated defendants and the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense.

I having considered all of these factors.

It is my intention to impose a sentence of 240 months on each count of conviction to be served concurrently. That will not be followed by a period of supervised release due to the certainty of Mr. Greenwood's deportation at the conclusion of his prison term.

I will not impose a fine as I find that Mr. Greenwood will not be able to pay a fine due to the other financial aspects of the sentence.

I will impose the mandatory special assessment of \$100 on each count of conviction for a total of \$300.

And I order forfeiture in the amount of \$300 million.

I believe that this sentence is sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with the purposes of sentencing for the following reasons:

It's actually quite difficult for one to wrap his arms around this crime. It has been described nefariously as the

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largest international fraud known at least to this district. It is massive in many respects. It is international in scope. It involved more than 3 million victims worldwide who were defrauded out of more than \$4 billion. And yet, at base, it involved nothing more than old-school snake oil. The entire OneCoin enterprise was a fraud from the beginning, as Mr. Greenwood has acknowledged. It was never a coin. was never a blockchain. There was never a market. There was never a chance that it could be traded for fiat currency. There was never a chance that any victim would make any money except through the mechanism of a garden-variety pyramid scheme whereby the early participants are able to get some money, but none for the victims that follow. And, importantly, from my perspective, there was never a chance that the victims would even get their investments out because the entire thing was a fraud.

There has been talk of the guidelines in this case, and obviously the amounts of money exceed the ability of the guidelines to capture the seriousness of the offense. And I have in the past, as Ms. Potter indicated, suggested my view that the fraud guidelines to fraud tables perhaps in many cases overstated the seriousness of the offense. But I don't look at this case and look at the fraud tables alone. A more important perspective in my view is the sad list of investors, none of whom will get their money back. And even if this case involved

many millions or hundreds of millions of dollars less, the offense would not be less egregious. Over three million people were victimized. And what this case involved was Mr. Greenwood and his co-conspirator simply putting their hands in the individuals' pockets, the victims' pockets, and taking it out, taking out the money that they found in there. And these were people, many of whom could scarcely afford to lose that money.

Some mention has been made of the Madoff case, and from my perspective, the way that I differentiate this case from the Madoff case is that in the Madoff case — and, by the way, I never heard the name Bernie Madoff before he was arrested, and that was because Bernie Madoff only dealt with individuals who had tens of millions, if not billions, of dollars who could invest, individuals who could afford to invest money. The victims involved in this case would never have been targeted by Mr. Madoff. They were too small. In contrast, they were not too small for Mr. Greenwood and his co-conspirators. They were precisely the people that they targeted.

As Mr. Folly indicated, there is indeed evidence in the record of this case, an email on September 11, 2016 between Mr. Greenwood and Konstantin Ignatov, who is Ruja's brother, in which Mr. Greenwood referred to the OneCoin investors as idiots. And Mr. Ignatov responded, "Well as you told me, the network would not work with intelligent people." So there is

in that email not only an evident disdain on the part of Mr. Greenwood and his co-conspirators towards their victims but a frank acknowledgment that they were aware that the victims were unsophisticated and therefore easy marks.

Mr. Greenwood, and at least certain of his co-conspirators, profited immensely and used their ill-gotten funds to live lavishly. It is no wonder therefore that in another email from January 2015 with Ms. Ruja Ignatova, Mr. Greenwood wrote, "I will not stop and nobody can try to stop me. I will fight day and night to generate a worldwide audience who loves the Cryptoqueen and OneCoin."

Now, Mr. Greenwood, of course, is a person who knew better. He didn't need to live a life of crime, and nothing that is before me suggests that there was any need for him to engage in this conduct. I have read carefully the letters submitted on his behalf. He was actually granted a charmed life by his parents. He grew up in a happy home. He was well taken care of. He was educated. He had mentors and older adults who took care of him. In fact, his parents were able to send him to school abroad from his native Sweden. After graduation, he held important jobs with established financial institutions. As he indicated himself, he was a member of his church and active in his church and drew great solace from his religion. He was married with two healthy children. He appears by all sources to be a very good father. And I do not

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doubt the sincerity of the many letters that were submitted on his behalf, nor do I doubt Mr. Greenwood's capacity to inspire the love and admiration of those who support him. But he didn't have to do any of this, and it is still a mystery as I sit here today at this moment why he turned from someone who had so much and who needed nothing to turn to a scheme that took everything from people who could not afford to give it.

Now, while a substantial sentence of incarceration is compelled in this case, there are at least two substantial reasons to grant Mr. Greenwood some measure of lenity. First, of course, he was arrested in Thailand and spent some time in a prison there under what could only charitably be referred to as horrific conditions. And once he was transferred to the United States, he has been held at the MCC and then the MDC here in New York. As the parties are aware, he was held there during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the conditions in those prisons during that time were incredibly difficult. While some of my colleagues have suggested that it is appropriate to ascribe some numerical value to the relative harshness of being confined to those institutions during that period, I do not think I need to do that, but I appreciate that the Court should absolutely take into consideration the conditions of confinement because no matter how quilty a person may be, no one deserves to live in subhuman conditions.

With respect to deterrence, although I acknowledge

that perhaps with respect to Mr. Greenwood, personal deterrence is not a particularly strong factor in this case, general deterrence is, and this is a case where, you know, sometimes when we impose sentence and talk about general deterrence, it's an amorphous term or an amorphous concept, but people have been following this case. It has been the subject of a great deal of interest. There are, I'm sure as there always are, any number of individuals or organizations or entities that are looking to replicate the success that Mr. Greenwood and Ms. Ignatova enjoyed over a number of years, and it is important, therefore, I believe for that reason as well, to impose with respect to general deterrence a substantial period of incarceration.

And in this case, punishment is one of the factors that I can and need to take into consideration, and this is conduct that cries out for a level of punishment. And I also acknowledge that incarceration will be different for Mr. Greenwood than it is perhaps for other non-foreign inmates. However, on balance, there needs to be a substantial period of incarceration. And in imposing this sentence, I do not suppose that Mr. Greenwood is as evil as the conduct he admitted to suggests, nor as saintly as his loved ones imagine. I look at the conduct, the entirety of the conduct and the entirety of his life, and come to a conclusion that I believe to be fair and just. I would note as well Mr. Greenwood's acknowledgment

that he had no excuse.

And with that, does counsel know of any legal reason other than what has already been stated why the sentence should not be imposed as I've indicated?

Mr. Folly?

MR. FOLLY: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Potter?

MS. POTTER: Your Honor, we believe the sentence imposed is excessive, but we also -- and we preserve, I should say, our prior legal arguments.

THE COURT: Very well.

In that event, it is the judgment of the Court that Mr. Greenwood be sentenced to 240 months on each count of conviction all to be served concurrently. That will not be followed by a term of supervised release due to the certainty of his deportation on each count.

He is, however, ordered to pay the mandatory special assessment of \$300, which shall be due immediately. And I will enter the forfeiture order that has been submitted by the government in the amount of \$300 million.

Are there any open counts, Mr. Folly?

MR. FOLLY: Yes, your Honor. The government moves to dismiss all underlying indictments.

THE COURT: That application is granted.

That constitutes the sentence of the Court.

Mr. Greenwood, you have an absolute right to appeal this sentence. However, the time within which you have to perfect that appeal is fairly limited. So, Mr. Weddle, Ms. Potter, Mr. Faridi, will you assure me that you will promptly and thoroughly discuss with Mr. Greenwood his rights to appeal?

MS. POTTER: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Any other applications, Ms. Potter?

MS. POTTER: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: In that event, we are adjourned.

Mr. Greenwood, good luck to you, sir.

(Adjourned)